

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, July 14. 1709.

WHile I have been arguing for our encouraging and settling the poor *Palatines* among us, I have had the Honour to receive the following Letter from an unknown nameless Person, a wonderful Friend to our *North-British* Brethren, no doubt he is, and a paticular Friend to be sure to his own Country, from whence he is for sending away some of those, that in Point of Wealth and Strength have been a considerable Part of the Support, both of Trade at home, and War abroad—And without whom, he and all his Party would have found it hard enough to have carry'd on the War to such a Height, as we have now happily seen it.

Mr. REVIEW,
YOU have spent a great Deal of Time to persuade the World into an Opinion of the Advantages of filling us with Vagabonds, and raking all Germany for Beggars, according to the natural Consequence of the late popular Law of Naturalization—But among your wise Proposals, you have forgotten two, which I more especially send you, because they relate very much to Scotland, for whose Presbyterian Grandeur you have a particular Veneration, and are therefore become their famous Advocate and Defender—
FIRST, If it be so great an Advantage to plant People in a Nation, why do you not propose sending these Drives of Rogues to Scotland,

Scotland, where there is Land enough to plant upon, and where they can't starve the Inhabitants, for they live in a Condition to starve any Body that shall venture to come among them, and where they shall never want Hunger, Cold, Disease, barren Lands, and smoky Cabbins, to comfort them in their Exile——SECONDLY, If this Project cannot take Effect——Then, I humbly propose to your EXCELLENCE, that you would move to transplant two or three hundred Thousand of our Phanaticks here, that continually embroil us with Faction, Hypocrisie, and Plots, against the best Government, and the best establish'd Church in the World; and in their Room we will be content to take in these poor naked Wretches; for any thing will do better among us, than such a Brood that are every Day undermining us; and besides these People here, who are nurs'd with the Milk of Dissention, and have the Blood of Treason and Enthusiasm flowing in their Veins, would fill your FAVOURITE KIRK with so many Factions, Schisms, Breaches, and Divisions, that they would be sooner destroy one another, and of Course bring about the Blessed Union of Christian Uniformity, which has been so long in vain wish'd and pray'd for.

Pray, consider of it.

Yours, &c.

This is a rare Fellow, I warrant you, and had obtain'd no Place in this Paper, but to let the World see; . The Temper; And, 2. The Politicks of some People among us, and to what Purpose it is to argue with them.

And yet one thing this excellent Spirit'd Gentleman discovers, which Mr. Dryden charg'd upon an ill-grounded Satyr once, viz. *Much Malice mingled with a little Wit*; and to detect this, it is that I say any thing to this Letter.

It is evident enough, what Disposition the Party here have to our new united Friends in Scotland——And I need not go far for insulte Testimonies of it on all Occasions——The Misrepresentations of their late Treatment of the *Non-juram* Clergy fairly call'd Persecution of Episcopacy, the Innumerable Affronts upon all Occasions offer'd to the Presbyterian Establish'd Church there, and

to the Scots Nation in general; whether respecting the Country, or its Inhabitants, are pregnant Instances of their MUCH MALICE; as to their LITTLE WIT, it appears in the pointless Satyrs made on these Occasions, in which are discover'd the grossest Ignorance of these Gentlemen, in Relation to the People, the Commerce, the Navigation, the Climate, the Soil, the Way of Living, and almost every Thing else, as well as the Religion of Scotland.

To hear our People speak of Scotland, or of the Scots Affairs, or People, it would make a Stranger think, that this same Place call'd Scotland was some remote Country in the East-Indies, or about Madagascar, or some Island in the *Fretum Magellanicum*, the North-West Passages, the South Seas, or somewhere very unfrequented, where very few People ever came, and from whence, like our News from Muscovy, Things were very uncertainly related, and our Accounts from thence very little to be depended upon.

The learned Gentlemen of this Party, tho' skill'd in History, Masters of Geography, and have seen great Part of the World in their Travels, they'll tell you, that Scotland is a barren, uncultivated, desolate Country; that the Land is all barren, and will hardly maintain the People that live there——Nay, they will very learnedly ask sometimes. If there is any Mutton, or any Beef, or any Butter, or any such thing as Milk in Scotland——The Highlanders they take to be a Sort of Monsters, and ask, if they live upon Roots and the Bark of the Trees——Never was more wild Notions in the Heads of our People here, of the Caribbees in the Gulph of Florida, and the Islands of the Gulph of Mexico—or of the brutish People of the *Cape de bonne Esperance*, than they have of this People——Nay, one but the other Day, who is a Man of Letters, and a Man of History, seriously and for real Information, ask'd me, what Sort of Speech the Scots Tongue was, for that he had never met with any Books of it——Another ask'd me as seriously, being a Merchant, where the Scots fetch'd their Corn before the Union, and what they had to buy it with.

I could add a great many such as these, as the constant Result of the most profound and mystical Ignorance, that ever was yet found among among a knowing People, such as we pretend to be.—From all which I see a great Deal of Room to confirm the first Maxim I laid down to my self, when I had begun to enquire of, and consider *Scotland*, its People and Circumstances, Viz. That there are not in the whole World two Nations, that stand so near, have so much Concern with and Interest in each other, that know so little of one another, as these two.

But to come back to our Proposer.—And first for his sending the poor *Palatines* into *Scotland*, and to plant them, which he calls starving them, there—Here I shall tell him, 1. If their Lot had been cast there, they would have been much civiler treated there, than they are like to be here.—If they had gone to the Fields to work in their Harvest, they would not have been kick'd and abus'd, and driven from their Labour.—If a poor Man of them had been hir'd to carry a Burthen, he would not have it pull'd off from his Back in the Streets, and Himself thrown down into the Kennel under his Load, as I have seen done here, to the Shame and eternal Reproach of our National Temper. No, Gentlemen, if the *Scots* want Money, I must tell you, they do not want Manners; and one Piece of Humanity they are Masters of, which you misall your boasted Improvements, are without, and that is, Courtesie to Strangers, in which they out-do, even the *French* themselves. But this by the way.

2. Neither would they have been in Danger of starving in *Scotland*.—And here I must note for the Information of our Pretenders to Knowledge, that *Scotland* really is so far from starving her Inhabitants from any real Defect of the Land—that it cannot really be call'd a barren Soil.—The Defect of *Scotland* is from the Want of Application to the Land, by Management and right Cultivation, enclosing and improving.—Not for Want of the Land making a suitable Return of Profit and Advantage to the industrious Husband-man, when he has done.

Trouble not your selves then about the Poverty of *Scotland*, and the Sterility of the Soil.—Send twenty Thousand People thither, when you will, that are vers'd in Husbandry, planting, enclosing and improving Lands.—The *Scots* shall thank you for them; they shall be so far from starving there, that they shall grow rich there; feed themselves, and teach the *Scots* how to live in as good a Posture as their Neighbours.—And as I am now talking only in general, I take upon me to tell you, and I speak it to open the Eyes of our People in *England*, as well as to hint it to the *Scots* themselves;

There are in *Scotland*, and that 150 Miles North of *Edinburgh*, as well as nearer to *Edinburgh*. whole Counties, vast Tracts of Land for 50 Miles together, as rich, as strong, as fertile, as well water'd, and as capable of Improvement, as the Counties of *Middlesex*, *Hantsford*, and *Bedford*, or generally speaking, as any in *England*.

But *Scotland* has been an uninstructed, discourag'd and abus'd Nation; Poverty has grown upon them; Misery begets Sloth, according to an old *English* Proverb, that bare Walls make giddy Housewives; and Sloth confirms and binds down that Misery; the Disasters of War, *English* Devastations, the Disasters of their Government, their Courts being remov'd to *England*, and above all, the Disasters of their Constitution, the Want of that Thing call'd Liberty, and the petty Tyranny of the Landlords, these have all kept *Scotland* poor.—But take this if you please from me; Rouze but the *Scots* to Industry, by such Encouragements as you both may and ought to give them, they have a Soil able to make them as rich, as plentiful, and as pleasant as your selves. But of this hereafter.

As to sending our *Dissenters* away by Hundreds of Thousands, and the like, to *Scotland*.—All I shall say to it, is this.—We know the Good-Will of our Party-Friends here to their Brethren the *Dissenters*, and that they would very gladly be rid of them the shortest way, or any way.—But have a Care, Gentlemen, how you send them into *Scotland*.—For this ugly Sort
of

of People call'd *Dissenters* have two Faculties, which indeed generally attend one another; 1. They are rich. 2. They are industrious.— Upon my Word, should you send two or three hundred Thousand People into *Scotland*, that were both rich and industrious, you'd make *Scotland* as rich as most Nations in the World.— And that 'tis well known, is what you would be very loth to do.— Of which I shall say something in my next.

I cannot but add as a Hint to our Friends in *Scotland*, that if they were wise, since they have so many Instances of your Good-Will to them.— They would set upon this Work without you.— It is evident they do not want Means, and need not want Struption.

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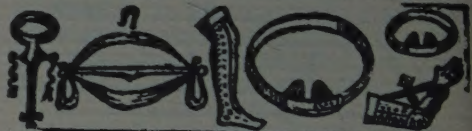
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